

CHESAPEAKE HOTEL
Betterton, Maryland
(circa 1885 & later)

The Chesapeake Hotel was a rambling frame structure located directly on the Betterton beach and forming the west side of a small beach-side park. The building was more or less T-shaped in plan, three stories in height on the street, four stories in height on the beach, and covered by a shallow gable roof. The most distinctive architectural features of the building was its one story porches which were located on the second floor level and front the beach and the park.

A small portion of stenciling was found at the cornice of a ball-room. A fleur de lis design, it was green and red on a white ground; the ceiling was painted light blue.

The building has been demolished and its site will be used as a natural, public beach.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC CHESAPEAKE HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER west side Betterton Beach

Erickson Avenue

1st

JUL 27/94

CITY, TOWN

Betterton

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland 21610

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Commissioners of Kent County, MD

Telephone #: 778-4600 ext.34

STREET & NUMBER

Kent County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

Liber #: E H P 97

Folio #: 338

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-439

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☒ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chesapeake Hotel is a rambling frame structure located directly on the Betterton beach and forming the west side of a small beach-side park. The building is more or less T-shaped in plan, three stories in height on the street, four stories in height on the beach, and covered by a shallow gable roof. The most distinctive architectural features of the building are its one story porches which are located on the second floor level and front the beach and the park. The building has two over two windows set in plain frames and exposed rafter ends at the cornice. There are no significant moldings or other architectural details.

Although the main portion of the Chesapeake appears to have been built in the early twentieth century, there have been numerous alterations and additions. In general these changes--as well as the original building--were simple and inexpensively done.

Public rooms are located on the street and beach levels with guest rooms above. The public rooms have high ceilings supported by interior columns; flat reeded trim is used to enframe the windows and the four-panel doors that are used throughout the building. The interior stairs are non-continuous with the flight leading from the beach level to the street level in one location, the flight leading from the street level to the second story in another location and so on. A few simple turned balusters and a square newel remain in place.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

*Chesapeake Bay Resort
Building, interior
decoration*

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unlike the nearby Rigby Hotel, which is a well maintained and functioning building, the Chesapeake Hotel is a structure of little architectural distinction. When it was an operating hostelry in an active resort town, the Chesapeake's siting made it a key part of the town's fabric. Now, however, it has become archaic both physically and economically and past efforts of private individuals and public officials to find a new use for the Chesapeake have ended in failure.

The building is currently being demolished and its site will revert to a natural, public beach.

K-439

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

*Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant**February 4, 1980*

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600 ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Guest rooms are arranged on both sides of long narrow hallways. The rooms are small and plain, usually with a closet and one window. Bathrooms were "down the hall".

The most interesting feature of the building is a small portion of stenciling in the main ballroom. It appears to be the original finish in the room and became visible only after weather and demolition loosened the wall paper which had long covered it. As the photographs show, the stenciling was located at the cornice level above the windows.

Chain of Title

CHESAPEAKE HOTEL (K-439)
Betterton, Maryland

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

EHP 97
338

TO: County Commissioners of Kent County
FROM: Stephen S. Hickman & Thomas G. Hyland
DATE: Oct. 30, 1979

\$94,000 for all Chesapeake & Seascape
property.

EHP 16
708

TO: Hickman & Hyland
FROM: Herman Epstein, etal.
DATE: April 2, 1966

WHG 18
330

TO: Epstein, etal.
FROM: Mercantile Trust Co. of Baltimore
DATE: March 28, 1951

WHG 13
397

TO: Mercantile, Trustee of Ernest T. & Annie
Lee Newel
FROM: Owners Realty Corp, Balt.
DATE: Oct. 26, 1949

WHG 5
508

TO: Owners Realty Corp.
FROM: Annie Lee Newel
DATE: Jan. 2, 1948

WHG 4
166

TO: Annie Lee Newel
FROM: Charles E. & Marie H. Beatty
DATE: Sept. 24, 1947

WHG 1
290

TO: Charles E. & Marie H. Beatty
FROM: Augusta G. Hall
DATE: Jan. 17, 1947

Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

RAS 40
62

TO: Marie H. Beatty
FROM: Betterton Beach Boardwalk Corp.
DATE: July 8, 1946

RAS 20
184

TO: Boardwalk Corp.
FROM: Henry J. Plant, etal.
DATE: June 29, 1938

Lease
RAS 4
569

TO: Henry J. & Mary B. Plant & The Beach
Amusea Co.
FROM: John S. Owens
DATE: Feb. 24, 1930

SGF 6
592

TO: John S. Owens & George R. Crew
FROM: Harvey & Mary S. Brice & Howard Turner
DATE: March 7, 1898

(one acre and one rood for \$3,500.00).

JTD 4
404

TO: John S. Owens
FROM: George R. Crew
DATE: Feb. 15, 1901

SGF 1
17

TO: Harvey Brice
FROM: Elizabeth B. Turner
DATE: June 24, 1892

"Chesapeake House" property for \$2,500.00.
Restriction as to passenger embarkation.

WILL

TO: Elizabeth B. Turner
FROM: Richard Turner
DATE:

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Land Records of
Kent County

Transaction

SB 4
595

TO: Richard Turner
FROM: Joseph Turner
DATE: Oct. 3, 1883

"Chesapeake House" also mentioned "Fish
Hall Rd." 2 + acres.

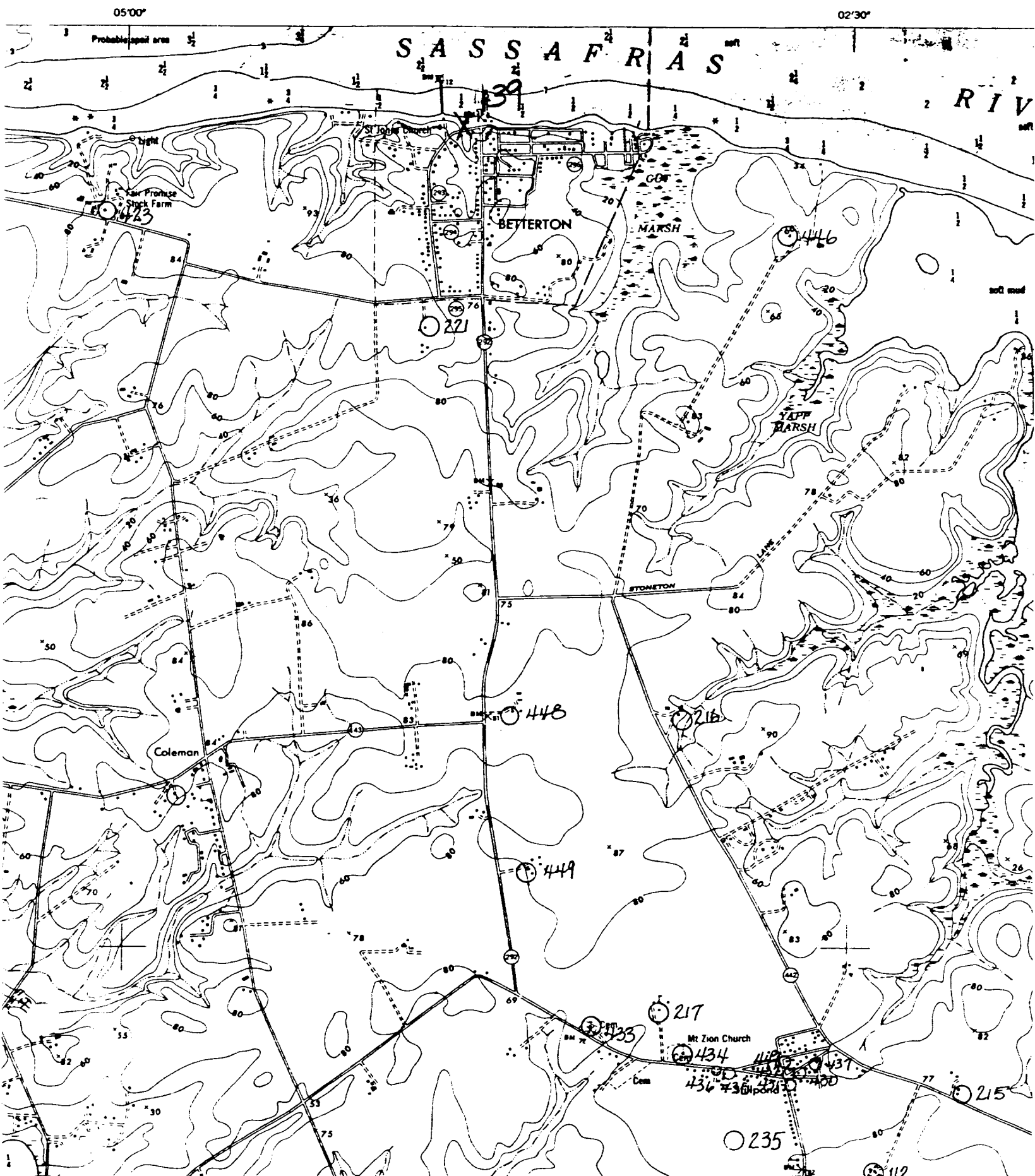
UKH 6
222

TO: Richard Turner
FROM: Ebenezer W. Crew, etal.
DATE: Dec. 25, 1866

The site for \$500.00; it was bounded on
two sides by land "condemned for...a public
landing," on the north by the water and on the
east by the Betterton Road. The site included
a "Granary or House." The wharf was
constructed by this time; evidently the public
landing planned was to be the Ericcson Pier.

BETTERTON

K-439





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Chesapeake Hotel

View to Northeast

Betterton

Kent County

M. L. Fritz

4/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 28 1980



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Chesapeake Hotel

View to Southwest

Betterton

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

4/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND



K-439

Chesapeake Hotel

Stenciling in lobby; Medium green figure
with dark red flower on white ground.
Light blue ceiling.

Betterton

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

4/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERFIELD'S SHIRAZ AND